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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Amendment claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11 and 14-17 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully pointed out that claims 2, 6-8, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended solely to improve grammar and not in response to any rejection.

In paragraph one on page two of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 5,276,727 to Kim et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kim, et al. teaches a method and device for remote maintenance of a PBX system. The remote maintenance system is connected to a telephone unit and a publicly switched telephone network. The Examiner asserted that Kim, et al. teaches a CPU 201 that controls a switch circuit 204 to connect an incoming call to either the publicly switched telephone network as in a normal telephone call or to the remote maintenance center 220. However, the maintenance system Kim, et al. teaches simply connects the incoming call from the telephone unit to the telephone network or to the remote maintenance center 200 via the publicly switched telephone network. Kim, et al. does not disclose nor suggest "a signal transmission inhibition unit that selectively inhibits transmission of the DTMF command signal from the telephone unit to the telephone network and allows transmission of the DTMF command signal directly to the Data

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Processing Device when the DTMF command signal indicates one of the plurality of telephone services" as claimed in claims 1, 10, 16 and 17.

The communication support system claimed is effective in providing increased functionality for computer assisted telephone services for the user of the telephone unit. For example, the user of the telephone unit does not need to be located in front of the Data Processing Device when obtaining the computer assisted telephone services. Kim, et al. neither teaches nor anticipates using a Data Processing Device to provide a plurality of telephone services. Kim, et al. teaches simply to configure a PBX system using a remote maintenance center 220. The PBX system is not used to provide services to the user of the telephone unit.

Claims 2-6, 8-9, 12, 13 and 15 are allowable as depending on claims 1 and 10 respectively as well as the additional features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15-17 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 on page 4 of the Office Action claims 7, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim, et al. in view of U.S. Patent number 6,041,116 to Myers. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Myers does not solve the deficiencies noted above in Kim, et al. Therefore, claims 7, 11 and 14 are allowable as depending on claims 1 and 10 respectively as well as for the additional features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that affect is courteously solicited.

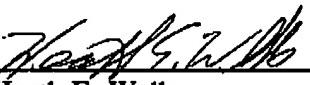
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

on January 11, 2001

STAAS & HALSEY

By: Linda L. Stine

Date: January 11, 2001

TOTAL P.12